

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 462
INFO USLO PEKING
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE POUCH
AMCONSULLUBUMBASHI
AMCONSUL BUKAVU POUCH
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USUN NEW YORK 1587

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 6397

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, CH, CG
SUBJECT: VISIT OF CHINESE MILITARY DELEGATION

REF: A KINSHASA 6076; B) DAO IR 6 821 0044 78 DTG 290828Z
C) 77 KINSHASA A-128

1. SUMMARY: KINSHASA PRESS HAS ANNOUNCED UPCOMING VISIT TO
ZAIRE OF A HIGH-LEVEL PRC MILITARY DELEGATION. THE TEN MAN
DELEGATION WILL BE HEADED BY THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE GENERAL
STAFF OF THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY (PLA), AND WILL VISIT
BRAZZAVILLE BEFORE COMING TO ZAIRE. PRESS HAS ALSO ANNOUNCED THE
ARRIVAL OF CHINESE NAVAL ADVISORS ON JUNE 17 END SUMMARY.

2. KINSHASA DAILIES REPORTED JUNE 17 AND 18 THE IMMINENT VISIT
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TO ZAIRE OF A PRC MILITARY DELEGATION HEADED BY DEPUTY CHIEF OF
THE PLA GENERAL STAFF, GENERAL CHI HAO-TIEN. THE DELEGATION, 10
MEMBERS IN ALL, ALSO REPORTEDLY INCLUDES THE PLA'S DEPUTY COMMANDANT
OF ARTILLERY AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE CHINESE NAVAL SCHOOL. THE
DELEGATION IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN ZAIRE SOMETIME NEXT WEEK AFTER
SPENDING SEVERAL DAYS IN TRANSIT IN ZURICH AND THEN PAYING AN OFFICIAL

VISIT TO BRAZZAVILLE. NO INFORMATION ON THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT HAS BEEN MADE PUBLIC. IN THIS CONNECTION, EGYPTIAN MILITARY ATTACHE HERE CLAIMS HE HAS INFORMATION THAT CHINESE WILL PROVIDE 20 ADDITIONAL

TANKS AND 2 MORE GUNBOATS. WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION OF THIS REPORT.

3. ON JUNE 18 THE KINSHASA DAILY ELIMA ALSO REPORTED THE ARRIVAL IN KINSHASA THE PREVIOUS DAY OF AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF CHINESE NAVAL ADVISORS. NO DETAILS REGARDING THEIR PLANNED ACTIVITIES WERE GIVEN, ALTHOUGH THEY PRESUMABLY WILL PROVIDE FURTHER TRAINING FOR THE CREWS OF THE GOZ'S TWO PRC-SUPPLIED SHANGHAI II GUNBOATS.

4. COMMENT: THE VISIT OF THE MILITARY DELEGATION, SO SOON AFTER THAT

OF THE PRC FOREIGN MINISTER (REF A), AND THE ARRIVAL OF CHINESE NAVAL

ADVISORS REPRESENT A DEFINITE INCREASE IN CHINESE INTEREST AND ACTIVITY

IN ZAIRE. WHILE THE CHINESE HAVE LONG BEEN ACTIVE HERE, WORKING IN RICE CULTIVATION PROJECTS AND BUILDING THE PEOPLE'S PALACE AND A SPORTS COMPLEX, THIS ACTIVITY HAS TAPERED OFF SINCE 1975 WHEN MOBUTU TURNED AWAY FROM THE CHINESE MODEL HE ONCE ACTIVELY PURSUED (REF C). THESE NEW DEVELOPMENTS, AS WELL AS THE MARCH RETURN OF ZAIRIAN NAVAL PERSONNEL TRAINED IN CHINA, INDICATE THAT THE MILITARY SIDE OF THIS RELATIONSHIP IS NOW OF GREATER IMPORTANCE TO BOTH COUNTRIES: TO ZAIRE,

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BECAUSE IT ADVANCES THE GOZ'S DIPLOMATIC REFFORTS AS WELL AS POTENTIALLY BENEFITING ITS MILITARY; AND TO THE PRC BECAUSE IT GIVES SUBSTANCE TO THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST SOVIET "SOCIAL IMPERIALISM" IN AFRICA.
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